HMT Limited

2787. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the HMT has issued a notification to appoint new officials though it is targeting to downsize by allowing VRS to its employees;

(b) how many years have since been elapsed to revive the agreement on wages of HMT employees;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate revision of wages of the HMT employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) HMT has issued notification to appoint few management trainees (engineers) and executives. The manpower in the company has come down from over 19 thousand as on 1 -4-2000 to less than 11 thousand as on 1 -4-2003 by implementation of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS).

(b) The last wage revision agreement with workers had expired on 31st December, 1996.

(c) and (d) The 1997 wage revision could not be implemented in HMT due to company not being able to fulfil the guidelines stipulated by Department of Public Enterprises for wage revision.

Praga Tools Limited

2788. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation has been made by the employees of the Praga Tools Limited (PTL), Hyderabad for sanction of working capital and to place orders with it;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees have not received their salaries since October, 2002; and

(c) the steps Government propose to help them ?